

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IO-10 SY-04 /074 W

----- 106989

R 091156Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8857

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 544

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS

SUBJECT: KC CASUALTIES SINCE JANUARY FIRST

1. SUMMARY: SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE KHMER COMMUNIST DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE ON JANUARY 1, BY CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE, THE KC HAVE LOST 1,650 KILLED. END SUMMARY.

2. CASUALTY FIGURES ARE NOW SLOWLY COMING IN AS HARD-PRESSED FANK COMMANDERS TURN FROM DEFENSE TO REORGANIZATION AND REPORT THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE 1975 OFFENSIVE. FANK CLAIMS 375 ENEMY KILLED NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH ALONG THE PENINSULA WHICH FORMS THE MEKONG'S WEST BANK AND ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG ACROSS THE QUATRE BRAS FROM PHNOM PENH.

3. SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH BETWEEN THE MEKONG AND BASSAC RIVERS, THE ENEMY HAS LOST 100 KILLED. THESE LOSSES DO NOT INCLUDE THOSE SUSTAINED DURING THEIR ACTION WHICH SUCCESSFULLY CUT ROUTE 1 TO NEAK LUONG. FARTHER SOUTH ON THE MEKONG FROM BANAM TO THE VIETNAMESE BORDER, GROUND AND NAVAL COMMANDERS REPORT ONLY 50 ENEMY KILLED. HARD FIGHTING WHICH NETTED MAJOR ENEMY GAINS IN THE LOWER MEKONG SUGGESTS THAT THIS ESTIMATE IS LOW.

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4. THIRD AND FIRST DIVISION TROOPS OPERATING ON BOTH SIDES OF ROUTE 4 WEST OF PHNOM PENH CLAIM OVER 500 KILLED FROM A SERIES OF ARMOR-SUPPORTED INFANTRY OPERATIONS AND IN THE RELIEF OF AN IMPORTANT GARRISON AT TOUL LEAP.

5. SEVENTH DIVISION COMMANDERS HAVE NOT HAD TIME TO ASSESS ENEMY CASUALTIES BUT ESTIMATE ABOUT 225 KILLED IN BITTER FIGHTING THAT AT TIMES BECAME HAND-TO-HAND NEAR THEIR PHNOM BASET BASE OF OPERATIONS. OTHER UNITS, INCLUDING FANK TROOPS REINFORCING THE 7TH, AND FORCES PUSHING TOWARD PHNOM PENH FROM OUDONG CLAIM ANOTHER 150 ENEMY DEAD.

6. AFTER SUBTRACTING FOR POSSIBLE DOUBLE COUNTING BY GROUND COMMANDERS, WE CREDIT KAF WITH AT LEAST 250 KILLED FROM THE AIR.

7. COMMENT: SIXTEEN WOUNDED AND FIFTY DEAD PROBABLY MEANS AT LEAST ANOTHER 5,000 WOUNDED, OF WHOM MANY WILL DIE OR BE DISABLED BECAUSE OF RUDIMENTARY MEDICAL CARE. IF THIS CALCULATION IS ACCURATE, IT WOULD REPRESENT 20-25 PERCENT OF THE ENEMY FORCE COMMITTED AGAINST PHNOM PENH AND THE MEKONG SINCE JANUARY 1. THEY STILL HAVE A FAIR RESERVE CLOSE ENOUGH TO LAUNCH A NEW ROUND OF ATTACKS AT PHNOM PENH. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE KC PAID CONSIDERABLY FOR THE JANUARY 1-8 PHASE OF THE OFFENSIVE.  
DEAN

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